

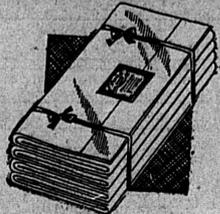
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Labor Shortage Major Problem In Coming Year

SACRAMENTO — Possibility of a labor shortage in national defense industries within the next six months looms as one of the major problems to be confronted by the California Department of Employment during the year 1941, according to R. G. Wagenet, Director.

Heavy increases in the demand for workers in national defense industries during the past few months of 1940 and the awarding of more than a billion dollars in contracts to industrial firms in this state has depleted the labor supply until only 15,000 men are listed as available at the present in the 400 occupations necessary for defense activity, he said.

The Department, Wagenet pointed out, has been cognizant of the situation for some time, and has co-operated with other government agencies in the development of a pre-employment training program and in referring applicants for work to refresher and supplemental courses in the schools.

Closer co-operation between the Department, labor and industry, said Wagenet, has resulted in enabling the Department to offer the public strength and interest in job placement, counseling, junior work, agriculture and other activities during the year 1940.

Estimates indicate that the placement total for 1940, on the basis of both complete and supplemental placements, will amount to more than 330,000, against 306,775 for the year 1939, or approximately a seven and a half percent increase.

Computing unemployment taxes, paid to the Department during the year, plus interest on the unemployment fund, revenue will amount to approximately \$80,000,000. Benefits paid to claimants throughout the state will approximate \$65,000,000, leaving a balance for the fund of \$15,000,000 in the fund, and bringing the total reserve to more than \$160,000,000.

Out of 480,000 persons who filed claims for insurance with the Department during 1940, 450,000 drew at least one check during the year. Approximately 2,080,000 workers were protected by insurance during the year.

1940 TRAFFIC HIT NEW HIGH ON S. P. LINES

Southern Pacific's volume of freight traffic in 1940 was the greatest in the company's history, ton miles having exceeded even the heavy traffic volume of 1929, according to a year-end report on the company's activities by A. D. McDonald, president.

"However," McDonald pointed out, "the company received about one-third of a cent less revenue on the average for each ton mile in 1940 than it did in 1929, equivalent to a reduction of 23%. If the 1940 revenue per ton mile had been the same as in 1929, freight revenues during the past year would have exceeded the total actually realized by more than \$50,000,000."

Southern Pacific's passenger traffic, which comprises about 10% of its total business, was less than in 1939 and was off 10% as compared with 1929, it was noted. Average revenue received per passenger mile was 40% less than in 1929.

The Southern Pacific president said the railroads are confident of their ability to handle efficiently any added transportation load due to national defense activities.

McDonald emphasized the fact that Southern Pacific has commenced taking delivery on 2640 new freight cars, costing \$7,760,000. It has on order 20 new streamlined steam locomotives, costing \$3,500,000, and 51 new lightweight streamlined passenger cars, costing \$3,500,000. Trains similar to the famous "Daylight" streamliners will take over the "San Joaquin" runs between San Francisco and Los Angeles in 1941. Also a pair of deluxe 16-car streamlined "Larks" will go into service on the Coast line between the same cities and a new 17-car Diesel-powered "City of San Francisco" will be added to the San Francisco-Chicago run in 1941. Equipment of many other trains will be substantially improved.

Chinese had suspension bridges built of iron chains centuries ago.

Vocational Agriculture Studies Enable Students to Earn, Learn In Hot Spot

Following is the 14th article in the "Know Your Torrance High School" series written especially for this newspaper . . .

By THOMAS H. ELSON, Principal of Torrance High School

Last year the Torrance high school course in Vocational Agriculture earned as a subsidy the sum of \$1,184.08. The 21 students enrolled in this group earned \$386 income from projects included in its program of instruction.

Poultry projects were the most popular as well as the most profitable, seven boys in this field earning almost half of the total. Landscape maintenance and crop projects followed in value, while other boys gained experience with some profit in growing rabbits, pigs, lambs and cattle.

Vocational Agriculture is sponsored by State and Federal Governments to train interested youth for farming and to improve agriculture and rural living. In communities such as Torrance, with its growing industrial population, the training tends toward part-time farming, or production mainly for home consumption. After the present war emergency there will probably be plenty of time for home production, as well as a need to augment reduced incomes.

"They Know Who Won" Learning to do by doing is the policy of vocational agriculture. The Smith-Hughes act which authorizes federal reimbursement of vocational training requires that each boy carry on a home project, to actually practice what he learns in class. The profits gained in these enterprises in more rural communities have many times stimulated improved practices among farmers. On the other hand, agriculture classes visit the more successful farmers in the district to see how they apply scientific principles to the definite conditions of that area. These projects give boys experience in various types of agriculture; or if a student knows just what he wants to do he can start with a small project, increasing it every year until it is almost a full-time enterprise by the time he graduates.

Record keeping is one very important phase of the program. These boys know who won the game—they or the feed man, or they aim to know why. If jackrabbits eat the beans, or a calf dies, or poultry is stolen the loss is definitely known. But it takes some study of accurate records to find out that some boys made money on rabbits while others lost because special feeds cost more than alfalfa hay and barley.

Learn Cooperation Visits to the state school at San Luis Obispo and Future Farmer conventions are a part of the excursion schedule. Members of the group are always excited.



His nation entirely surrounded by water or conserved countries, Switzerland's Dr. Ernest Fritz, 1941 President, faces a tough year. Already Switzerland has felt bombs, even though it is at peace

hibitors at the Los Angeles county fair. The Future Farmers of America chapter is the organization for vocational agricultural students only. In this club the boys learn what cooperatives do by working together for the common good. They also may have practice in parliamentary procedure and in presenting ideas as leaders in agriculture. Through judging contests they gain skill in selecting good livestock and self-confidence in advancing their own opinions.

In any community most of the boys will graduate into local occupations, but some will follow through to the work that most appeals to them. Some former agriculture students of Torrance high are now farming on their own, some working for farmers, some in landscape enterprises, others in government agriculture service, teaching agriculture, selling agricultural commodities, or in forestry. All have some knowledge of agriculture, and experiences that will be of value to them whether residents of town or country.

The 15th article in the "Know Your Torrance High School" series by Principal Elson will be published next week.

14 Elections Slated In County In 1941

Fourteen city elections have been scheduled in Los Angeles county for 1941 thus far, according to the records of W. M. Kerr, registrar of voters, but Torrance will not share in the ballot business. There may be a few special elections rung in during the year, as there usually are, but Kerr doesn't know about them as yet.

—Want Ads 25c—

STORKatorials

JEANNETTE LOUISE CASE . . . was born to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Case at 2:20 a. m. Jan. 1 at the family home, 1344 219th street. She weighed 8 pounds 4 ounces and has two and one-half year old brother. Father Case is a shepherd at the Columbia Steel plant and Mrs. Case is the former Virginia Wheeler. The baby's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. George Wheeler and Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Case.

JOANNE ZYNA CRONIN . . . was born to Mr. and Mrs. Francis Lee Cronin of 1330 1/2 Emmerich avenue at 10:25 a. m. Jan. 3 at Torrance Memorial hospital. Their first child, he weighed 7 pounds. His father is a painter and his mother is the former Alice Matron Pearce. John Eddie is the 14th grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Pearce of Great Falls, Mont.

ERNEST CARLYLE FRITZ . . . arrived to Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Fritz of Redondo Beach at 3:25 p. m. Jan. 3 at Torrance Memorial hospital. He weighed 8 pounds and has a two and one-half year old sister, Kay Marie. Father Fritz is a fisherman and Mrs. Fritz is the former Anita McFarland. The baby's grandparents are Mrs. Anna McFarland of 174 Arlington avenue and Mr. and Mrs. William E. Fritz of 1330 Cota avenue.

LARRY LEE HAWKINS . . . was welcomed by Mr. and Mrs.

Farr-Hawkins of Hermosa Beach at 6:10 a. m. Jan. 3 at Torrance Memorial hospital. He weighed 6 pounds 11 ounces and has a brother, Farrell Ray, who is three and one-half years old. The baby's father is a clerk at Moore's Market at Palos Verdes Estates and his mother is the former Lena Bell. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Bell and Ephraim Hawkins of Malad, Idaho.

JOHN EDDIE SHIRE . . . was born to Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Shire of 1908-B Cabrillo avenue at 12:20 Jan. 7 at Torrance Memorial hospital. Their first child, he weighed 7 pounds. His father is a painter and his mother is the former Alice Matron Pearce. John Eddie is the 14th grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Pearce of Great Falls, Mont.

JOSETTE LORRAINE WALKER . . . was greeted by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas T. Walker of 2213 Cabrillo avenue at 10:20 a. m. Jan. 5 at Torrance Memorial hospital. She weighed 6 pounds 10 ounces

CLINTON BRYANT MEADWAY . . . in the report published last week of this young man's arrival at Torrance Memorial hospital Dec. 24, the first child of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Meadway of 2224 Gramercy avenue, two of his four great-grandparents were inauspiciously but inadvertently omitted. His maternal grandmother, Mrs. B. F. Ordway of 2007 Plaza del Amo called "The Herald's" attention to this omission, the day following publication. The names of Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Jolley of 2011 Plaza del Amo should have been listed along with other proud great-grandparents, Mrs. J. B. Meadway and C. Heimbrook, all of Pennsylvania. The Jolleys are Mrs. Meadway's grandparents.

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